

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

1. (currently amended) A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support comprised of plastic;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch having a blade operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch includes a blade is comprised of an electrically conductive material and directly secured to said fixed support;

wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material and directly secured to said fixed support;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle; and

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

2. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing said switch blade to the fixed support.

3. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

4. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic as a one-piece component.

5. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said mounting bracket secures a said terminal of the switch to the fixed support.

6. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 5, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

7. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch includes a terminal secured directly to said fixed support blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

11. (currently amended) A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch having a blade operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch includes a blade comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing said switch blade and said switch terminal to the fixed support;

wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic as a one-piece component;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle;

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

12. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

13. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said mounting bracket secures a terminal of the switch to the fixed support switch blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener.

14. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 13 11, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

18. (currently amended) A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support comprised of plastic;

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a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch includes a blade comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said switch includes a terminal comprised of an electrically conductive material;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle;

wherein said switch blade extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens said blade is spaced-apart from said terminal to open an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes wherein said blade is in direct electrical contact with said terminal to close the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

**19. (currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing a said switch blade of the switch to the fixed support and wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic.

**20. (currently amended)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said switch is blade and said switch terminal are each secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.